

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 00120 01 OF 02 062226Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-07 INT-05 DOE-11 SOE-02 CU-04  
ACDA-12 EA-10 DEAE-00 FBIE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 EUR-12 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00  
EB-08 STR-05 /134 W  
-----088638 062300Z /72

O R 062140Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9091  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 0120

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, JM  
SUBJECT: JAMAICAN CABINET RESHUFFLED

REFERENCE: A. 77 KINGSTON 7739 B. 77 KINGSTON 7408

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY ANNOUNCED  
ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 5 A RESTRUCTURING OF HIS GOVERNMENT.  
THE FOLLOWING MAJOR CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED:

-- DR. KENNETH MCNEILL HAS RESIGNED AS MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY  
AFFAIRS. HE RETAINS HIS SEAT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

-- KEBLE MUNN HAS REPLACED DR. MCNEILL AS PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
MINISTER, STEPPING DOWN AS MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY. MUNN  
REMAINS RESPONSIBLE ELECTORAL MATTERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINGST 00120 01 OF 02 062226Z

-- SENATOR DUDLEY THOMPSON HAS BECOME MINISTER FOR NATIONAL  
SECURITY.

-- HORACE CLARKE, MINISTER FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES, WILL TAKE  
APPARENTLY TEMPORARY CHARGE OF THOMPSON'S FORMER MINING AND  
MINERALS PORTFOLIO WHILE RETAINING HIS PRESENT CHARGE.

IN ADDITION TO THESE MAJOR CHANGES, MP KEITH RHODD, UP TILL NOW A BACKBENCHER, HAS BEEN APPOINTED A PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS. HE REPLACES SENATOR SEFTON JOHNSON WHO IS ASSIGNED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TO WORK WITH THE ACCELERATED LAND REFORM UNIT, PRESUMABLY RETAINING HIS POSITION AS A PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

2. COMMENT: THE CABINET RESHUFFLE HAS BEEN RUMORED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS (SEE REFTELS). HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SURPRISES, AND IT SEEMS CERTAIN THERE WILL BE FURTHER CHANGES, POSSIBLY BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH.

3. SENATOR THOMPSON'S APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY MAY RESULT IN THE MANAGING OF JAMAICA'S WAR AGAINST CRIME WITH RUTHLESS EFFICIENCY. (SEE SEPTEL REPORT ON THIS POINT.) HOWEVER, THE APPOINTMENT WILL BE VIEWED BY MANY HERE AS BEING TOTALLY CYNICAL. MANY JAMAICANS CREDIT THOMPSON WITH THE DUBIOUS DISTINCTION OF HAVING INTRODUCED GUNSS AND GUNMEN TO JAMAICAN POLITICS. THEY WILL ALSO POINT TO HIS CONTINUING LINKS TO ARMED THUGS AND HIS RUMORED FINANCIAL WHEELING AND DEALING -- INCLUDING MAINTENANCE OF A NUMBER OF OVERSEAS BANK ACCOUNTS. (ONE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES, AS MINISTER OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINGST 00120 01 OF 02 062226Z

NATIONAL SECURITY, WILL BE ENFORCEMENT OF JAMAICA'S CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE CONTROLS.) MANY JAMAICANS WILL ALSO BE CONCERNED THAT ANY REMENTS OF APOLITICAL ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND ORDER WILL DISAPPEAR (#)

THOMPSON'S

WELL EARNED REPUTATION FOR HAVING VIRTUALLY NO PRINCIPLES WHEN IT COMES TO POLITICS.

4. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO US IS HIS RECORD OF ESPOUSAL OF LEFTIST POSITIONS AND HIS CLOSE LINKS WITH CUBA. (THE ONLY READING MATERIAL IN HIS OUTER OFFICE AT THE MINISTRY OF MINES IS A WEIRD MIX OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY PAPER (GRANMA), THE PEKING REVIEW, CHINA RECONSTRUCTS, SOVIET LIFE, AND ASSORTED NEWS HANDOUTS FROM CHINESE, SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESS AGENCIES.) HE REMAINS CHAIRMAN OF THE CUBA/JAMAICA INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION -- A ROLE WHICH MAKES HIM A DEFACTO MINISTER OF CUBAN AFFAIRS WITHINN THE GOJ. IT COULD BE THAT THOMPSON'S LINKS TO THE RADICAL LEFT AND CUBA WERE IN FACT A FAVORABLE POLITICAL CONSIDERATION FOR PRIME MINISTER MANLEY, I.E. THOMPSON'S APPOINTMENT WILL BE SEEN BY SOME AS A CONCESSION TO THE LEFT. AS A PRACTICAL

MATTER, HOWEVER, THOMPSON IS LOYAL TO HIS OWN AMBITIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE AND TO MANLEY IN THE SECOND. HE THEREFORE IS LIKELY TO CARRY OUT RUTHLESSLY AND WITH LITTLE CONCERN FOR THE NICETIES OF LAW AND PRINCIPLES, WHATEVER MANDATE MANLEY PROVIDES HIM.

5. ON A MORE POSITIVE NOTE, THOMPSON (IN A CONVERSATION WITH DCM MORNING JANUARY 6) MADE CLEAR THAT HE WANTED TO ESTABLISH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY NEXT WEEK,

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW,

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 00120 02 OF 02 062217Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-07 INT-05 DOE-11 SOE-02 CU-04  
ACDA-12 EA-10 DEAE-00 FBIE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 EUR-12 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00  
EB-08 STR-05 /134 W  
-----088571 062301Z /72

O R 062140Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9092  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 0120

A RELATIONSHIP WITH DEA. HE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO RE-ESTABLISH A JAMAICAN POLICE LIAISON RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FBI; THE LATTER EVAPORATED IN 1976.

6. DR. MCNEIL'S DEPARTURE WAS EXPECTED. THE REASON GIVEN PUBLICLY, POOR HEALTH, HAS SOME VALIDITY BUT IS ONLY AN EXCUSE. HIS RESIGNATION IS ALMOST CERTAINLY DUE TO HIS PERSONAL FINANCIAL AFFAIRS WHICH HOLD CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FOR EMBARRASSING THE GOVERNMENT.

7. KEBLE MUNN'S REMOVAL FROM THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL

SECURITY WAS ANTICIPATED. HIS PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN ABNORMALLY WEAK. HIS TRANSFER TO PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, HOWEVER, WAS UNEXPECTED, BUT MAY BE ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE. MOST REPORTS HAVE HAD HIM RESIGNING FROM PARLIAMENT AND BEING APPOINTED HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINGST 00120 02 OF 02 062217Z

HIS CURRENT RETENTION IN GOVERNMENT MAY WELL HAVE BECOME NECESSARY IN ORDER TO AVOID AN IMMEDIATE BY-ELECTION WHICH THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) COULD EASILY LOSE (SEE 77 KINGSTON 7557).

8. ACCORDING TO NEWLY APPOINTED NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER AND FORMER MINING MINISTER THOMPSON (IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM MORNING JANUARY 6), HORACE CLARKE'S TAKING OVER THE MINING PORTFOLIO PROBABLY IS ONLY TEMPORARY. THOMPSON SAID THERE WILL BE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL CABINET CHANGES IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, AND THE FUTURE OF THAT PORTFOLIO WILL BE DETERMINED AT THAT TIME. IN OUR VIEW, CLARKE COULD BE A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT OVER THOMPSON. CLARKE HAS A REPUTATION FOR HONESTY, MODERATION, EFFICIENCY AND HARD WORK. BY WAY OF CONTRAST, THOMPSON'S ANTAGONISTIC ATTITUDES TOWARD THE BAUXITE ALUMINA COMPANIES AND LACK OF INTEREST IN HIS MINING PORTFOLION, HAVE CAUSED UNNECESSARY DIFFICULTIES IN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THOSE COMPANIES AND THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT. MANLEY HAD BECOME AWARE OF AND PERSONALLY CONCERNED WITH THIS PROBLEM. IT NOW SEEMS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT THE CABINET RESHUFFLE WAS DESIGNED AT LEAST IN PART TO UP-GRADE THE GOJ'S RELATIONS WITH THE BAUXITE/ALUMINA COMPANIES.

9. THE APPOINTMENT OF RHODD (WHO ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER MANLEY DURING THE LATTER'S DECEMBER WASHINGTON VISIT) MAY OR MAY NOT BE SIGNIFICANT. SOME SOURCES HERE LABEL HIM AS A "MODERATE" WHILE OTHERS CLASSIFY HIM AS "RADICAL". IN ANY EVENT, HE WILL BE SERVING HUGH SMALL, THE MARXIST MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORTS. SEFTON JOHNSON'S TRANSFER FROM THAT MINISTRY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IS NO SURPRISE. JOHNSON HAS BEEN AT ODDS WITH SMALL AND IS NO LONGER AN EFFECTIVE LINK TO THE PNP'S YOUTH ORGANIZATION -- GIVEN HIS OUSTER FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THAT GROUP LAST SUMMER.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINGST 00120 02 OF 02 062217Z

IRVING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978KINGST00120  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780011-0269  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** KINGSTON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780193/aaaaczza.tel  
**Line Count:** 223  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 479801e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 KINGSTON 7739  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3819068  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JAMAICAN CABINET RESHUFFLED  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, JM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/479801e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014